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CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM

COORDINATION OF LAND ARMAMENTS PRODUCTION
THROUGHOUT THE SOVIET BLOC

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

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COORDINATION OF LAND ARMAMENTS PRODUCTION
THROUGHOUT THE SOVIET BLOC

During the Warsaw Conference of the Soviet Bloc powers which was held in May 1955, meetings were conducted on the standardization of land armaments production in the Soviet Bloc. Incoming reports indicate that progress is being made both in the standardization of production methods and in the allocation of production quotas to the various Satellite countries. The USSR, probably through the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA), maintains overall supervision of the items to be produced and virtually makes the decision where the production will take place.^{1/} The producing countries may have some voice in the determination of their own production but it appears that final approval for land armaments production comes from Moscow.

Meetings at the Warsaw Conference revealed great differences in the Soviet and Satellite production of armaments both in technology and in the organization of production. The most serious obstacle to the standardization of production was the problem of automation of ammunition production.^{2/} On this problem, a recent report states that employees of the Research Institute for Mechanization and Automation at Nove Mesto nad Vahom in Czechoslovakia, some of whom were delegates to the Warsaw Conference, have drawn up a project for the automation of the production of shell cases of 85 and 57 mm caliber to be used in tank and anti-tank guns. This project must be submitted to Moscow for final approval.^{3/} Another report tells of a meeting of Czechoslovak and Hungarian technicians which was held in Budapest in December 1955, at which Czechoslovak suggestions were given on Hungarian machinery designed for the production of infantry ammunition. The blueprints on this machinery were submitted in the Russian language.^{4/}

The division of labor with regards to munitions production in the Satellites apparently was announced at a conference of munitions experts of the Warsaw Treaty Powers which was held in Prague sometime in October, 1955. A report on this conference states that the Chairman from the USSR gave the instructions to each country and that there was little or no discussion.^{5/} There have been revisions to these instructions which might indicate that the countries do have some voice in the production as it is finally allocated.^{6/}

It has been reported that Hungary will produce for the European Satellite armies an infantry rifle, an automatic rifle, mortars, 57mm anti-aircraft guns and searchlights.^{7/} According to the item mentioned above concerning the Hungarian machinery designed for the production of infantry ammunition, it is probable that Hungary will also produce small arms ammunition. A study group, of experts from the Ministry of Metallurgy and Machine Industry, were to go to the USSR shortly after March, 1956 for instruction in the production of the materiel to be produced by Hungary.^{8/} It is not clear yet just when this production will begin. All munitions production in Hungary was suspended in September 1955.^{9/} In December, it was reported that the production of the new military items which was allocated to Hungary would not begin until the end of 1957. A subsequent report, however, indicated that this production would get underway "forthwith."^{10/}

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Although there has been no specific indication of what production has been allocated to the other Satellite countries, a few general assumptions can be made concerning production in Czechoslovakia, Poland and East Germany. Reports from Czechoslovakia indicate that the new Soviet medium tank, the T-54, will soon go into production.^{11/} Czechoslovakia continues to carry out her own research and development in the munitions field. A recent report stated that a new model automatic rifle 7.62mm and a new bipod design for the 7.62mm company machine gun have been sent to Moscow for approval.^{12/} A new type mountain howitzer was also mentioned in a recent report from Czechoslovakia.^{13/} New construction at the large munitions factory at Dubnica nad Vahom which has been recently reported^{14/} tends to support the belief that munitions production will be increased in Czechoslovakia.

In a report to the Seventh Plenum of the Polish Communist Party Central Committee, First Secretary Edward Ochab told of the creation of a strong defense industry in Poland in the course of the past 2 to 3 years. This industry allegedly produces new cannon, tanks, jet planes, and radar apparatus.^{15/} With the tremendous effort involved in the development of this industry and with the publicity which has been given to the Polish defense industry, it is likely that Poland will produce for the Satellite countries some of the same items which are produced by Czechoslovakia, i.e. medium tanks and artillery.

East Germany appears to have been expecting an increased demand for her armaments production upon the creation of the East German Army. Prior to the organization of the Defense Ministry, an Office for Technical Matters was set up to coordinate the production and procurement of military end items for the East German Armed Forces. This office was set up apparently in response to instructions from the CEMA in Moscow.^{16/} In 1956, an order was drafted to insure the supply of technicians and workers needed for the industrial and administrative establishments working for the national defense program.^{17/} The promulgation and implementation of this order have not yet been accomplished. These points, together with reported construction of new ammunition production facilities at Koenigswartha^{18/} and continued reporting of small arms production at Suhl,^{19/} indicate that East Germany will be producing some munitions at least for her own forces under the overall coordination of Moscow.

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3. CIA. CS, 13 Feb 56, information 16 Dec 55, B-3, S
4. CIA. CS, 13 Feb 56, information Oct 55, S/
5. CIA. CS, 29 May 56, information Dec 55, S/
6. CIA. Memo to SA/RR, 1533-L-1282, Production of Postwar Soviet Weapons in the Satellites, 5 Mar 56, S
7. CIA. CS, 4 May 56, information Mar 56, S/
8. Ibid
9. Army, Budapest, R-203-56, 27 Feb 56, S
10. CIA. CS, op. cit., 4 May 56
11. CIA. CS, 21 Oct 55, information Sept 55, S
12. CIA. CS, op. cit., 4 May 56
13. CIA. Memo to SA/RR, 1693-L-1393, Items of Current Industrial Intelligence, 30 May 56, S
14. CIA. Memo to SA/RR, 1750-L-1432, Production of New Weapons in Czechoslovakia, 27 Jun 56, S
15. CIA. CS, 23 May 56, information early 1956, B-3, S/
16. Army, Prague DA IN 1199, 11 Jul 56, S
17. Air, USAFE B-5730-55, 31 Dec 55, information Sept 55, C-3, S
18. CIA. FBIS #142, 23 Jul 56, p GG-9, OFF USE
19. Armv. ACSI DIB 1691. 17 Oct 55. C
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23. Army, 513 MI Group, USAREURIC, RV-305-56, 30 Mar 56, information to Feb 56, C
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